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WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 1, 1953

MEMORANDUM OF INFORMAL PSB MEETING, JULY 1, 1953.

Place: Office of the Under Secretary of State

Present: Messrs. Jackson, Smith, Kyes, Dulles, Stassen and Morgan

Agenda Item 1. Interim U.S. Psychological Plan for Exploitation of Unrest in Satellite Europe.

PSB D-45, draft of June 29, 1953, was approved.

Agenda Item 2. Implementation of PSB D-45.

Mr. Jackson stressed the importance of vigorous implementation of PSB D-45 and its amended summary which has been approved by the President as NSC 158. He urged that each Board member pass the word to his subordinates that prompt and vigorous follow-up on this plan is desired. He also proposed that Mr. O'Connor of the PSB Staff be named as the person to follow up on implementation in consultation with principal expeditors to be named for each member agency. Mr. Dulles named [redacted] General Smith asked me to get in touch with Mr. Phillips who would inform me as to the State Department designee. Mr. Kyes stressed that no split opinions among the PSB and agency designees should be allowed to defeat implementation of any feature of the approved plan, and that in case of such disagreement the matter should be referred back to the Board for decision.

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Agenda Item 3. Bermuda Conference.

Mr. Jackson said that he had placed the postponement of the Bermuda Conference on the agenda principally because he had hoped that the conference would produce something of major importance for the East German situation. General Smith said that communiques being drafted for the July 10th meeting of Foreign Ministers should play a valuable role. Several members of the Board expressed the feeling that the United States had not reacted strongly enough to the East German riots and hoped that other ways of doing so could be found. Mr. Stassen stressed the importance of getting some kind of arms to the West Germans, perhaps for border guards or other semi-military formations, at the earliest possible moment. General Smith agreed to look into the matter further. Mr. Dulles also proposed that the possibility of an offer of food to the East German people be given immediate study. I reported that this was already underway in connection with the implementation of NSC 158 and said that if action became advisable before the next Board meeting we would ask the staffs concerned to clear the matter with their principals without further delay.

Agenda Item 4. Other Business.

Mr. Kyes said that a large quantity of Army "C" rations might be made available for use abroad because they were about to spoil. It was suggested that they might be very helpful for Japanese flood relief. Mr. Kyes said that he would see if this could be arranged with the Army.

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The Board noted the serious effects on world opinion produced by reports of "book-burning" in connection with the USIS libraries and agreed to recommend to the Department of State that such libraries be conducted in accordance with a general policy that American libraries anywhere have to be conducted in accordance with American principles of openness with respect to freedom of reading. The Board agreed to recommend further to the State Department that a public statement to this effect be made at an appropriate time.

The Board noted that the response of the missions queried with respect to the idea of a Free World Congress next Fall had been negative. It decided, however, that the idea might be kept in mind for the following Spring or Summer. It was suggested that the King and Queen of Greece might be willing to be hosts in Athens and that Professor Lord might be useful in this connection.

Mr. Kyes called attention to the fact that the President may be speaking in October at a meeting of the Future Farmers of America in Kansas City. It was agreed that it might be a good thing to invite delegates from foreign countries. Mr. Jackson agreed to follow up on this.

I reported that consultations were nearing completion with the State Department with respect to final changes in PSB D-23 (Thailand). It was agreed that if these changes are minor, the plan is to be considered approved and to be transmitted to the NSC for consideration.


GEORGE A. MORGAN
Acting Director

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